

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

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U.S. CHARGES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DESK SERGEANT AND TWO OTHERS IN CONSPIRACY TO OBTAIN FRAUDULENT CREDIT

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JEFFREY GALBREATH and CRAIG JOHNSON were arrested this morning on charges that they conspired to obtain credit from various retail stores using stolen personal information of U.S. Department of Defense employees and military personnel.

According to a Complaint filed against GALBREATH,

JOHNSON and BRYANT DICKEY today, they conspired with others to

fraudulently obtain instant credit and purchase merchandise at

various stores in the Palisades Mall in Rockland County, New

York, and in Manhattan in April and August 2004. On each

occasion, they used the personal information of an employee of

the U.S. Department of Defense and a counterfeit New Jersey

driver license bearing the name and biographical data of the

employee.

GALBREATH, who resides in Brooklyn, New York, is a civilian employee of the Department of the Army and works as a desk sergeant as part of the Fort Hamilton Police in Brooklyn.

GALBREATH's position afforded him access to personal biographical data of Department of Defense employees who entered Fort Hamilton.

GALBREATH and JOHNSON were presented today in White Plains federal court before United States Magistrate Judge LISA MARGARET SMITH. GALBREATH was released on his own recognizance and JOHNSON was detained pending further proceedings. DICKEY is still being sought by law enforcement authorities in connection with this matter.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the United States Postal Inspection Service, Hudson County (N.J.) Prosecutor's Office, Department of the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, Rockland County District Attorney's Office, Rockland County Police Unified Intelligence Center, Clarkstown Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN B. NEW is in charge of the prosecution.

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